

Docket No.: 216397US25CONT

OBLON
SPIVAK
MCCLELLAND
MAIER
&
NEUSTADT

P.C.

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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RE: Application Serial No.: 09/988,880

Applicants: Jeffrey A. STUCKEY Filing Date: November 19, 2001

For: RAPIDLY CHANGING DICHROIC BEAMSPLITTER

Group Art Unit: 2872

Examiner: SIKDER, MOHAMMAD Y.

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

RESTRICTION RESPONSE

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,

MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Charles L. Gholz

Registration No. 26,395

Customer Number

22850

(703) 413-3000 (phone) (703) 413-2220 (fax)

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W. Todd Baker

Registration No. 45,265



DOCKET NO: 216397US25CONT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :

JEFFREY A. STUCKEY : EXAMINER: SIKDER, MOHAMMAD Y

SERIAL NO: 09/988,880 :

FILED: NOVEMBER 19, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2872

FOR: RAPIDLY CHANGING DICHROIC : RECEIVED

BEAMSPLITTER

FEB 2 6 2004

RESTRICTION RESPONSE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Applicants elect with traverse claims 2-9 drawn to "specific features of the beamsplitter having a wheel with a planar reference surface passing there through and providing support at respective planar positions for a plurality of dichoric beamsplitters whose respective optical axes are perpendicular to said planar reference surface, classified in class 359, subclass 629."

Applicants respectively point out that the claims in the above-identified application are based on the claims of the 6,309,078 patent. Both the application and patent claims include apparatus and method claims. The application that matured into the '078 patent was examined by the examiner of record in the instant application, but was not subject to a restriction requirement. Hence, it would appear that there would be no undue burden placed on the examiner to examine all of the active claims of the instant application.

Further, Applicants will be filing a divisional application presenting the non-elected claims if the restriction requirement is not withdrawn. The divisional application will also

Application No. 09/988,880 Reply to Office Action of Jan. 22, 2004

include a request for interference with the '078 patent. Consequently, the Examiner will have to consider two separate requests for interference targeting one patent as opposed to considering a single request for interference. Applicants respectfully submit that is an unnecessary waste of resources. In light of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number 22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220 (OSMMN 08/03)

Charles L. Gholz Attorney of Record Registration No. 26,395 W. Todd Baker

Registration No. 45,265

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